

**CITY OF CASTROVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING**

1209 Fiorella

City Council Chambers

Tuesday

July 21, 2020

1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor Pro Tem Darrin Schroeder
Councilmember Sheena Martinez
Councilmember Paul Carey
Councilmember Phil King
Councilmember Todd Tschirhart

Leroy Vidales, Interim City Administrator/Finance Director
Debra Howe, City Secretary
Brian Jackson, Police Chief
John Gomez, Public Works
Angelia Alejandro, Library Director
Breana Soto, Community Development Coordinator
Devin Fredrickson, Parks and Recreation Director/Streets

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

The City Council will hear comments from any citizen or visitor. Speakers must address their comments to the presiding officer rather than individual council members or staff; stand at the podium, speak clearly into the microphone and state your name and residential address before speaking. Speakers will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes for testimony. Speakers making personal, impertinent, profane or slanderous remarks will be given one warning before losing the privilege to speak or may be removed from the room. Unauthorized remarks from the audience, stamping of feet, whistles, yells and similar demonstrations/distractions will not be permitted. No placards, banners, or signs will be permitted in the Chambers or in any other room in which the council is meeting. In accordance with the State Open Meetings Act, the City Council is restricted from discussing or taking action on items not listed on the agenda. Action can only be taken at a future meeting.

No one requested to speak.

Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder announced he had received questions from citizens after the last meeting on the city council not wearing a mask during the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder said with the added plexiglass petitions they were following the guidelines, but to promote safety and lead by example they would wear masks during the meetings.

IV. Presentation from Departments in the FY2021 General Fund.

(Leroy Vidales, Interim City Administrator, Angelia Alejandro, Library Director, Brian Jackson, Police Chief, Devin Fredrickson, Parks and Recreation Director/Streets, Debra Howe, City Secretary)

Community Development Coordinator Breana Soto presented her proposed FY2021 budget for council consideration. Ms. Soto said her budget was showing a 6% increase this year due a 3% salary increase for the two positions. Ms. Soto said some of the other increases shown where for City Engineering services (\$30,000) and these funds had been moved from the City Administrator's budget. Ms. Soto said the rest of the budget was basically the same as the FY2020.

Library Director Angelia Alejandro briefed the city council on her proposed budget. Ms. Alejandro presentation include the Library's mission statement and a five-year review of cardholders, library visits, services provided, free electronic resources through Mango, Lone Star Digital Library, Texshare and others. Ms. Alejandro said they were currently offering virtual summer camps due to the COVID 19 restrictions with good results. Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder asked about the grant amount shown as \$5,000. Ms. Alejandro said this was the annual amount they received and with a fulltime employee being hired her goals for the next year was to apply for new grants to continue to improve the Library services.

Police Chief Brian Jackson briefed the city council on his proposed budget. Chief Jackson provided a chart for his department and was requesting an additional officer in the FY2021 Budget. Chief Jackson said he was down one officer, a detective, and hoped to hire someone for that position in the current budget. Chief Jackson he needed an officer but would not need a vehicle for that person. He would be rotating a current SUV with low mileage back into the fleet. Chief Jackson spoke on the additions of his proposed budget including replacement of the perimeter fence and roof replacement.

Police Chief Brian Jackson spoke on the animal control budget. Chief Jackson said the only increase was the 3% raise and a small increase in the training budget.

City Secretary Debra Howe briefed the city council on the proposed City Council budget. Ms. Howe said the increases shown were a small amount in the salaries which was driven by the number of meetings the council attended. Ms. Howe said also shown was an increase to dues for the city and the training for boards and commissions that was removed from the current budget. Ms. Howe said the other boards did have training sessions available periodically and were necessary to stay current with their rolls on the boards. Ms. Howe said this proposed budget for the city council was their basic budget but if they were looking at more special projects in the coming year they could make changes at this meeting.

City Secretary Howe briefed the city council on the City Secretary budget stating the only increase shown were for the projected expenses for the 2021 general election and the Ordinance codification. Ms. Howe said the records retention costs were removed in the FY2021 Budget as she had this service performed every two years.

City Secretary Howe briefed the city council on the Municipal Court proposed budget. Ms. Howe said the only increases were in contracted services for additional help if needed, and a 3% increase in the court clerk's salary.

Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder recessed the meeting for brief break at 2:57 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder reconvened the meeting into open session at 3:20 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Director Devin Fredrickson briefed the city council on the proposed streets budget. Mr. Fredrickson spoke on the increases he was proposing for salaries including 3% and a new fulltime crew leader. His salary was now being shown in Parks and Streets and a new fulltime crew leader would be a title change and additional hours. Mr. Fredrickson said also shown were costs for chemicals, an IPAD and phone for the crew leader, a street sweeping program, additional vehicle maintenance, safety equipment and signage were shown. Mr. Fredrickson spoke on the capital outlay he was proposing with purchases of a crack seal machine, a chipper, pavement rehabilitation program and a new vehicle. Mr. Fredrickson provided an IWORKS analysis on which streets he would be working on in the FY2021 Budget.

Mr. Fredrickson briefed the city council on the Parks Department proposed budget. Mr. Fredrickson spoke on the accomplishments they had done throughout the year including planting new memorial trees, installation of new irrigation piping, signage replacement, updated the RV rec room and they were currently updating the ramp for ADA compliance. Mr. Fredrickson said the Friends of Regional Park had received a grant from Microsoft, and he was in the process of updating the Parks Master Plan to be eligible for more grants. Mr. Fredrickson said he was looking to replace the playground equipment. Mr. Fredrickson said his office had been relocated back to the park for easier access to the park and RV areas. Councilmember King asked about the mowing of right of ways. Mr. King said it was brought to his attention and wanted to make sure the staff was not mowing private properties. Mr. Fredrickson said he would investigate and provide information.

Interim City Administrator Leroy Vidales was to present the City Administrator and Finance Department budgets but requested to wait until the next meeting due to the time and to make a correction in the finance budget. Council agreed.

V. Adjourn.

Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

Darrin Schroeder
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Debra Howe
City Secretary